

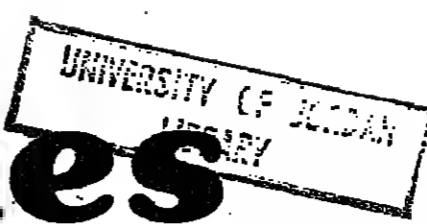
هذا من الأصل

In today's Jordan Times...

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالجزيرة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"



Today's Weather

It will continue hot, with some medium and high clouds and northeasterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, it will be hazy, with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

	Overnight	Daytime
	Low	High
Amman	16	30
Aqaba	18	36
Deserts	16	32
Jordan Valley	20	37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 35. Sunset tonight: 6:11 p.m. Sunrise tomorrow: 4:57 a.m.

Israel blocking way to haj: Page 2
celebration of Shakespeare: Page 3
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...at London fairs: Page 8

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AMMAN, WEDNESDAY APRIL 22, 1981 — JUMADA AL THANI 18, 1401

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Date to be announced J.S. decides to sell AWACS to Saudis

WASHINGTON, April 21 (A.P.) — The administration of President Ronald Reagan decided to sell Saudi Arabia conventional AWACS flying command posts as well as F-15 jet fighter equipment but has not decided when, congressional sources said today.

Sources, who asked not to be identified, said that was to be decided shortly. The sale, subject to congressional approval of the president's economic package, Mr. Speaker said, "I don't believe that any debate on the Saudi arms sales would interfere with the president's economic program." Secretary of State Alexander Haig has warned Saudi Arabia that the entire U.S.-Saudi arms package could be jeopardized if Riyadh continues to push for the command-post aircraft. This does not sit well with the Saudis.

Mr. Haig conveyed his warning to Saudi Arabia on his trip there two weeks ago, sources said yesterday. Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, responded to the warning on a Sunday television interview program: "We got a promise from this government that it will be done and we think it will be done...we should have it as a one-package deal."

Israel has strongly objected to the sale, saying the AWACS planes, which can control air strikes and monitor air traffic from 400 kilometers away, would leave it "naked" in any future war with Arab countries. The administration has said Americans would crew the planes until 1985, and Sheikh Yamani said his country would not fight Israel.

Yasser Arafat visited Jordan in 1979 and was received by President Eanes.

Begin orders study of W. Bank tension

BEER SHEVA, April 21 (A.P.) — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin has ordered an investigation of reports of worsening tension between Arabs and Jews living in the occupied West Bank, Israeli forces radio said today. Begin's spokesman confirmed the probe was ordered but said inquiries were routine when disturbances were reported.

The worst recent incidents have been reported in Hebron, where 15 squatters have occupied a building in the centre of the Arab town. The Arab residents complain their Jewish neighbours threaten with weapons, throw stones and set vicious dogs on them. Jews deny the charges, saying it is the Arabs who are behaving badly. Reports of Jewish harassment of Arabs, extensively covered by the Israeli daily Haaretz, have provoked protests from Israeli Jews. Former foreign minister Abba Eban said yesterday that "if reports are true, then something must be done." He said he raised the matter in the Knesset.

Begin is Israel's acting defence minister, which puts him in charge of Israel's 14-year-old occupation of the West Bank.



British troops on patrol pass a charred bus left by rioters Monday in the Northern Ireland city of Belfast. Days of protest have rocked Ulster in response to the worsening condition of Bobby Sands, a 27-year-old anti-British guerrilla on hunger strike in prison since March 1. (AP wirephoto)

Thatcher starts Abu Dhabi visit after repeating pro-RDF views

ABU DHABI, April 21 (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher arrived here today on the second leg of her tour of Gulf Arab states for bilateral and Middle East talks.

Mrs. Thatcher was met at Abu Dhabi airport by Sheikh Rashid bin Sa'eed Al Maktoum, ruler of Dubai, the second largest member of the UAE. After a brief official reception ceremony at the airport, Mrs. Thatcher and her entourage were driven to a downtown hotel. She will be hosted later at a state banquet by UAE ruler Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayyan.

The British prime minister flew in from Saudi Arabia after a three-day visit during which she met with King Khalid and held talks with Crown Prince Fahd.

Police tightened security for Mrs. Thatcher's visit today after an explosion in a Dubai hotel, British sources said. Two hotel workers died in the blast last night. The British consulate-general said she was not scheduled to visit the Hyatt Regency Hotel where the explosion occurred. (Story on page 5)

Mrs. Thatcher stressed Britain's readiness to sell the Saudis arms to bolster their own defences against threats to the security of the Gulf and its oil fields.

"I have made it clear we would be happy to supply certain things. We would be happy to supply tanks," Mrs. Thatcher told a news conference before leaving Riyadh today.

Mrs. Thatcher said she hoped the Saudi air force would replace existing British training planes with the new Hawk jet trainer, while she was also asked if she had promoted the Anglo-German Tornado multi-role combat aircraft.

She said Britain was considering design of a newer warplane for the 1990s which would be the first

designed with the ideas of potential foreign buyers in mind. She said "two or three pieces of technology in Tornado" interested Saudi Arabia, in the context of the proposed follow-on aircraft.

The prime minister spoke of the warmth of her welcome in Saudi Arabia and insights gained into its views on the Arab-Israeli dispute, while adding that she did not expect much movement on that until after the Israeli elections and completion of a review of U.S. Middle East policy by the Reagan administration.

Mrs. Thatcher reiterated support for the idea of a U.S.-led Rapid Deployment Force which would be available to defend the Gulf against any Soviet or other threat.

But she made clear it was not suggested such a force would be used unless invited in by states of the area.

The idea was not to set up bases and the force was most likely to take the form of a group of forces earmarked and properly trained for deployment in a threatened area, she said.

"It would be good contingency planning to have a Rapid Deployment Force for use if countries

asked us to use it," Mrs. Thatcher said. Saudi officials have said Saudi Arabia does not like the idea, a view put to U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig in Riyadh earlier this month.

Mrs. Thatcher described her talks with the Saudi crown prince as "very fruitful and constructive."

She said her talks in Saudi Arabia covered bilateral relations, defence matters, the situation in the Gulf and the Middle East, the Arab-Israeli struggle and East-West rivalry.

In reply to a reporter's question, the prime minister said Britain had recognised, at the Venice conference of Western European leaders last June, the rights of the Palestinians to self-determination, "provided the Palestinians recognised Israel's rights to existence within secure boundaries."

"These two elements are necessary to open the way for a settlement in the area," she was quoted as saying.

Earlier, UAE papers warned Mrs. Thatcher against any interference in the internal matters of the UAE federation.

on the agenda. A provisional secretariat for the regional organisation had been set up during a meeting held in Kuwait in 1978, and began its activities from its Kuwait headquarters in July, 1980.

Opening the meeting, Kuwaiti Minister of Public Health Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Awadhi said, "The region's government and peoples attach special importance" to the organisation, "which we all have to support in order to enable it to carry out its task."

Mr. Nachmann, in a recent radio interview, urged the chancellor to use his "strong position in Saudi Arabia" to promote peace in the Middle East.

The flap over the weapons deal has also proven embarrassing to Mr. Schmidt and his SPD, which has cultivated close ties with Israel's opposition Labour Party as a sign of Bonn's good faith in rejecting the Nazi past.

But at the same time, the West German government wants to develop closer ties with the Arab World, both to guarantee oil deliveries and as a market for German products. West Germany imports more than 90 per cent of its petroleum needs.

The Bonn government believes the weapons sale would not only help one of the West's few friends in the Gulf, but also expand West German influence in the region.

So far this year, West German firms have landed 10 billion marks (\$5 billion) worth of orders from Arab countries. With a record 28 billion mark (\$14 billion) current accounts deficit last year, the West Germans are eager for new foreign markets.

With so much at stake, the government has begun a low-key public relations campaign aimed at enhancing the Saudi's image within West Germany.

Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer issued a statement over the weekend declaring that "the tradition friendly contacts between West Germany and Saudi Arabia have developed further in the past years on the full breadth of economic and political relations."

Mr. Schmidt, meanwhile, in an interview with Saudi newspapers distributed in West Germany, praised Saudi Arabia as a "prominent factor for stability" in the Middle East.

Mr. Schmidt will remain in Saudi Arabia until April 29.

Amman-bound jet arrives safely 3 airliners flee Beirut under mortar barrage

BEIRUT, April 21 (A.P.) — International Airport today as with mortar shells exploding Syrian forces and Lebanese air-ground them, three Lebanese military jets traded mid-city art-jetliners took off from Beirut under mortar fire.

Airport officials said the three Boeing 727 jets of Middle East Airlines, Lebanon's national carrier, departed in rapid succession, each carrying about 100 passengers. "Are you all right, we saw some smoke from the bursting shells as you took off," airport sources heard an air traffic controller radio to one of the jets.

"It's OK, they missed us," replied the pilot.

The last plane had to take off with lights out to avoid mortar gunners, whose shells kept getting closer to the departure runway, the officials said.

Public Works Minister Elias Hrawi today ordered the airport at the capital's southern edge closed to international traffic as of 0600 GMT until further notice. He ordered it reopened five hours later but warning shells kept the airport, one of the busiest in the Middle East, at a standstill until nightfall. The airport is controlled by Syrian forces.

The facility was closed for the night after the three flights left but officials plan to return to normal operations tomorrow unless the shelling continues.

Two other flights that were to take off later were delayed until tomorrow as airline and airport employees raced out to safer neighbourhoods in the capital, the officials added.

The Syrian-rightist exchanges scared about 100,000 inhabitants on both sides of Beirut's mid-city "Green Line" into basements and bomb shelters. The fighting then spread to the eastern suburb of Hadass, where Syrian units and Lebanese regular forces battled with rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and machine guns, a Beirut police spokesman reported.

He said 17 Lebanese soldiers were wounded in the ongoing Hadass clashes. Three other Lebanese soldiers were killed and 14 wounded in a clash with Syrian peacekeeping troops near the city's closed horse race track, the spokesman added.

Residents reached by telephone

an 18-month-old baby, when reached by telephone in her basement apartment in Zahle. "Let's die and get it over with."

Zahle's population spent eight straight days and nights in shelters during fighting from April 1 to 8 between Syrian besiegers and Zahle's right-wing Falangist Party militia garrison. The International Red Cross has managed to get two food supply convoys to the beleaguered city and bring out 42 wounded natives since a ceasefire was proclaimed 13 days ago.

In southern Lebanon, meanwhile, long-range artillery duels flared through the day between Palestinian commandos and Israeli-backed militias of the "Free

the terrorists wherever they can be reached.

Palestinian rockets fired from Lebanon into northern Israel wounded one civilian, prompting Israeli gunners to return the fire, the military command said.

Border militia gunners shelled the port city of Sidon on the Mediterranean coast for the second time in three days. The governor's office said a five-year-old boy and a 14-year-old girl were killed when a shell slammed into an old building housing refugees from southern Lebanon.

The office reported 14 other people were injured as about 10 shells struck at the city's harbour and other sections.

Newspapers said the incidents took place after a demonstration demanding the reopening of the university, closed at the start of a strict Islamic and anti-leftist "cultural revolution" launched a year ago.

They said 200 members of the extreme-left Paykar group who staged the demonstration clashed with groups of "Hezbollah," members of the so-called "Party of God" and militant supporters of hard-line government leaders.

Several newspapers said a young demonstrator had tried to throw a home-made grenade but that it had exploded prematurely, injuring her and some of her companions.

The injured were taken to hospital, where they gave false names, and some of them were detained.

According to the newspapers, Paykar members then tried to rescue their colleagues by putting on overalls and posing as medical staff.

More scuffles developed, during which another grenade was thrown, killing the man and woman, the newspapers said.

2 die in Tehran University riots

TEHRAN, April 21 (R) — Two people were killed and more than 20 wounded in incidents at Tehran University yesterday involving left-wing militants and supporters of Iran's fundamentalist Islamic leadership, officials said today.

The officials said a man and a girl died in the incidents and hospital sources said 21 people were detained for treatment. Five underwent surgery for knife and other wounds.

hosts of the past cloud Schmidt's planned Saudi visit

BRUNNEN, April 21 (A.P.) — Chancellor Helmut Schmidt travels Monday to Saudi Arabia, a visit important to future Western interests in the Gulf, but overshadowed somewhat by moral issues of the past.

Schmidt will become the third major western official to visit Saudi Arabia this month. U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig visited the country April 7, followed two weeks later by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Saudis, who are already facing political roadblocks in purging American surveillance aircraft, have expressed interest in some 300 German-built Leopard II tanks and hundreds of armored vehicles.

Formal request to purchase the weapons has been made. West German officials insist, although they concede the Saudis have expressed interest in the equipment.

Already the proposed sale has been sharply criticised in Israel. Senior politicians have raised the ghost of the Nazi past in the Bonn government to block the deal.

West German politicians, including members of Mr. Schmidt's own Social Democratic Party, have also protested, citing national restrictions on weapons sales to "areas of tension."

Last month the influential SPD chapter in Mr. Schmidt's home of Hamburg passed a resolution opposing the sale. West German newspapers, quoting unidentified government sources, say a decision on the sale is unlikely before Mr. Schmidt's visit.

Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Zippori summed up government's view on the proposed sale, telling a radio interview: "In the United States, we must do the best we can. But our concern with the Germans is much more profound, with serious dimensions... has the blood spilled by Germany already been forgotten?"



Chancellor Helmut Schmidt

S. Africa saboteurs blast power station

DURBAN, South Africa, April 21 (R) — Saboteurs wrecked two transformers here today with bombs, cutting power supplies south of this port city and forcing hundreds of factories to stay closed today, police said.

The explosions shattered equipment at the sub-station in the Lamontville black township caused over \$2.5 million worth of damages, a government spokesman said.

Police said no one was hurt. They said they believed limpet mines were used by the saboteurs who cut through a security fence.

In June last year saboteurs used limpet mines in attacks on South Africa's top secret oil-from-coal plants, causing damage estimated at over \$8 million.

BANKING SUPPLEMENT

The Jordan Times is publishing a special BANKING SUPPLEMENT next week. Advertisements for it will be accepted until April 26. For all queries about the supplement please contact.

Irshad Najam, at telephone 67171-4
Amman, (3:30 to 5:30 p.m.)

NATIONAL

Daniele Scaglioni: disabled artist of great ability

AMMAN, April 21 (J.T.) — Italian artist Daniele Scaglioni arrived here this week to mount an exhibition of his work in Amman. The exhibition, to be entitled "City of Amman", is being presented by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, Yarmouk University and Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline.

Born in Montagnana (Modena) in 1949, Mr. Scaglioni comes from a family repeatedly tried by great sorrows. Painting, to which he has devoted himself since a very early age, has represented the only way to communicate with the world and to relieve his serious disability.

Numerous exhibitions held in the most important centres of Italy and Europe—Milan, Rome, London and Paris—confirm that Mr. Scaglioni holds an important position among contemporary artists.



"Painting," he says, "represents my inner feelings and my way to express my great love of life." Whoever sees his works—the landscapes revealing post-impressionistic features—can discover the true artist behind the disability of the man.

Dr. Anani lectures on economy

AMMAN, April 21 (Petra) — Minister of Labour Jawad Al Anani gave a lecture this evening at the Jordanian Economists' Association about price policy, wages and inflation as three major factors affecting the Jordanian economy.

He called for a reviewing of the current policy in pricing various commodities as services.

Dr. Anani explained the measures which could be adopted to check inflation. After the lecture, which was attended by a large audience, a question period was held.



Time for dancing: a scene from the Children's Day party organised by the Princess Alia Community College and the Soviet embassy on Tuesday

Israel attempts to block Palestinians from the haj, Awqaf Ministry charges

AMMAN, April 21 (Petra) — A statement issued by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs today accused Israel of creating obstacles to Palestinian Muslims in the occupied territories wishing to perform the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

The Israeli authorities have since 1978 allowed Muslims living in territories occupied in the 1948 war to perform the pilgrimage to Mecca.

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Israeli newspapers have recently been publishing allegations that young pilgrims returning home were found to have joined Palestinian commando organisations and to be in possession of arms, the statement said. These allegations, it asserted, are only a pretext intended to prevent Muslims from joining their brethren in performing the pilgrimage, out of hatred of Muslims and their religion.

The statement appealed to Arab and Muslim countries to take steps on the international level to stop Israel from implementing such repressive measures against Palestinian Muslims.

Copies of the statement were sent to all Arab ministries of Islamic affairs, international human rights organisations and information media in the Muslim World.

Good news for pedestrians

AMMAN, April 21 (J.T.) — The Traffic Department has obtained, and today put into service, portable radar sets that can detect speeders at a distance of one kilometre, Al Ra'i newspaper reported today.

It said the department has distributed several of the radar sets to traffic policemen, who can carry them by hand. Each of the portable sets, manufactured in West Germany, cost \$1,000, the report said.

Basketball federation meeting starts

AMMAN, April 21 (Petra) — Minister of Culture and Youth Ma'an Abu Nowar opened here today the sixth general assembly meeting of the Arab Basketball Federation.

Participants in the two-day meeting will discuss problems faced by the federation and will draw up plans for Arab basketball tournaments, as well as training courses for Arab teams.

Malhas opens blood bank

AMMAN, April 21 (Petra) — Minister of Health Zuhair Malhas opened a frozen blood bank at Ashrafiyah today.

Dr. Malhas toured the new bank, which is furnished with most modern equipment, and supervised the freezing of the first unit of blood for the bank.

The bank was established to meet the local need for various types of blood, especially rare types, its director, Dr. Yahya Khreis, said. He added that the bank can store some 800 frozen units of blood for periods ranging from five and fifteen years, compared with the previous maximum period of 21 days.

The Health Ministry intends to open more blood bank branches in different parts of the country, Dr. Khreis said.

Islamic festival opens today

AMMAN, April 21 (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran will open an Islamic festival tomorrow at the Islamic College in Jabal Amman.

The festival, to be held on the occasion of National Children's Day, is organised by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. A variety programme of national songs, dabke and Islamic plays will be performed, and token gifts will be distributed to participating children, a ministry source said.

Another event on the occasion was organised by the Princess Alia Community College in Amman today, in cooperation with the Soviet Cultural Centre. Some 300 children from Amman kindergartens, and children of the Soviet community in Amman, took part in a variety show of dances, songs and children's games. The participants also saw documentary films on children's activities in the Soviet Union.

Sharif Zaid meets Pakistanis

AMMAN, April 21 (J.T.) — The commander-in-chief of the Jordanian armed forces, Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn S, today met with a visiting delegation from the Pakistan National Defence College. Brig. Agha Masoud I for a discussion of bilateral relations.

Earlier today, the Pakistani delegation visited the M. Monument in Amman, Brig. Hassan watered it of life and recited verse of the Koran.

Cement price

AMMAN, April 21 (Petra) — The price of local cement has risen at JD 32 a ton with delivery 30 a ton from the company in Fuhes, according to an order issued by Ministry of Industry and Trade Walid A.

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Name of Company	Par Value	Number Traded	High	Low	Closing Price
Islamic Bank 50%	JD 1,000	2,684	1,670	1,670	1,670
Jordan-Kuwait Bank	JD 1,000	345	2,230	2,220	2,220
Jordan-Kuwait Bank	JD 1,000	3,000	1,510	1,500	1,510
Housing Bank	JD 1,000	5,050	2,200	2,190	2,200
Arab Investment Bank	JD 1,000	3,700	1,610	1,600	1,610
Bank of Jordan	JD 5,000	57	16,000	16,000	16,000
Petra Bank	JD 10,000	10	19,300	19,300	19,300
Al Ezdihar Insurance Co.	JD 1,000	250	2,350	2,350	2,350
General Insurance Co.	JD 1,000	1,170	1,590	1,580	1,580
Arabian Seas Insurance Co.	JD 5,000	131	11,100	11,050	11,100
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	11,774	2,130	2,120	2,130
Arab International Hotels Co.	JD 1,000	600	0,960	0,960	0,960
Arabian Investment and International Trading Co.	JD 1,000	12,200	1,140	1,110	1,140
International Contracting and Investments Co.	JD 1,000	7,600	0,850	0,850	0,850
Livestock and Poultry Co.	JD 1,000	600	0,620	0,620	0,620
Garage Owners Federation Office Co.	JD 1,000	1,000	9,900	9,750	9,900
Jordan Dairy Co.	JD 1,000	3,994	1,290	1,270	1,290
Arab Aluminium Industries Co.	JD 1,000	35,872	1,500	1,450	1,500
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Co.	JD 1,000	4,647	3,700	3,600	3,700
Arab Chemical Detergents Industries Co.	JD 1,000	7,345	4,910	4,900	4,900
National Steel Industries	JD 1,000	9,150	2,100	2,080	2,100
Dar Al Dawla' Development and Investment Co.	JD 1,000	475	3,360	3,350	3,360
Jordan Worsteds Mills Co.	JD 1,000	363	3,200	3,200	3,200
Jordan Ceramics Industries Co.	JD 1,000	2,723	1,130	1,120	1,130
Jordan Phosphate Mines Co.	JD 1,000	770	3,500	3,500	3,500
Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries Co.	JD 5,000	4,755	5,900	5,870	5,900
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co.	JD 5,000	25	29,850	29,850	29,850
Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co.	JD 5,000	360	8,450	8,440	8,440
Jordan Cement Factories Co.	JD 10,000	186	18,550	18,550	18,550

Total volume of shares traded on Tuesday, April 21, 1981: JD 260,921

Total number of shares traded: 120,836

Government Development Bonds

Year of Maturity	Par Value	Number Traded	Volume Traded	High	Low
1989 8 1/2%	JD 10,000	1,242	12,420	10,000	10,000

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Price: JD 2500 (customs duty unpaid)

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

Exhibitions of children's art work, marking National Children's Day, are on display at the school building in the east wing of Yarmouk University dorm, and at the Palace of Culture Sports City.

The Soviet Cultural Centre presents an exhibition in honor of the Soviet leader Lenin. The exhibition opens at 6 p.m., a centre near Third Circle in Jabal Amman.

The American Centre presents an exhibition of painting drawings of Jerusalem and the Jordanian landscape, by Ivy N. The exhibition is open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the centre's auditorium, off Third Circle in Jabal Amman.

The Jordan distribution Agency presents an exhibition of 50 books in Arabic and English, covering various subjects, as well as a wide range of children's books. Opening daily at 10 a.m. a University of Jordan.

The Jordan Engineers' Association presents an exhibition of work of Jordanian architects, at the Professional Association Complex in Shmeisani.

The Franco-Jordanian Friendship Association, in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, presents an exhibition of "Tapestries of Madaba and the Handicraft Industry of Jordan", at the French Cultural Centre in Jabal Luweibdeh.

The Spanish Embassy presents an exhibition of Spanish paintings depicting the fountains in the public squares of Madrid, at Yarmouk University in Irbid.

Film

The Goethe Institute presents the children's film "Stephen the White Bird". The film will be shown at the Holy Institute for the Deaf in Salt, at 7 p.m. (in German, with English subtitles).

Medical lecture

The Irbid Medical Association, in cooperation with Yarmouk University, presents a lecture in medicine entitled "Hypothalamic Pituitary Adrenal Access". The lecture will be given by Dr. S. Mahmoud, who teaches at the Medical School of the University of Baghdad, at 6 p.m., at Yarmouk University Medical School.

Videotape programme

The French Cultural Centre presents "Thalassa; Sécurité, l'île de l'Ouessant, le point sur le Tanio", at 5 p.m. on a mystère Frontenac" at 6 p.m. The programme will be shown at the centre in Jabal Luweibdeh.

Ministry of Transport QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Special Tendering Committee for QAIAP wishes to invite tenders for the manufacture and delivery to the airport site of the following vehicles:

1. Two No. 2 berth accident ambulances
2. Four No. 4 berth casualty ambulances
3. Two rapid intervention fire appliances
4. Six heavy duty fire appliances
5. Three water tankers
6. One mobile workshop.

Copies of contract documents and specifications of the above vehicles may be obtained for a refundable fee of JD 200 from the Queen Alia International Airport Project Office in Shmeisani, Box 17101, Amman, telephone 61401, telex 2000 ANIA.

Preference will be given in selecting a contractor those with experience in manufacturing airport emergency vehicles with local facilities for servicing and repair.

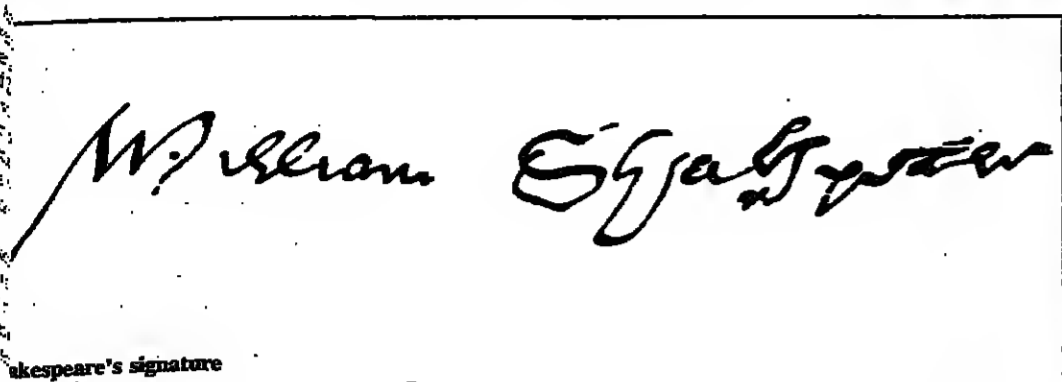
Tenders should be submitted to the above address later than 12 noon local time on June 22, 1981.

Chairman of Special Tendering Committee for QAIAP.

Handwritten signature

Grand opening on Thursday

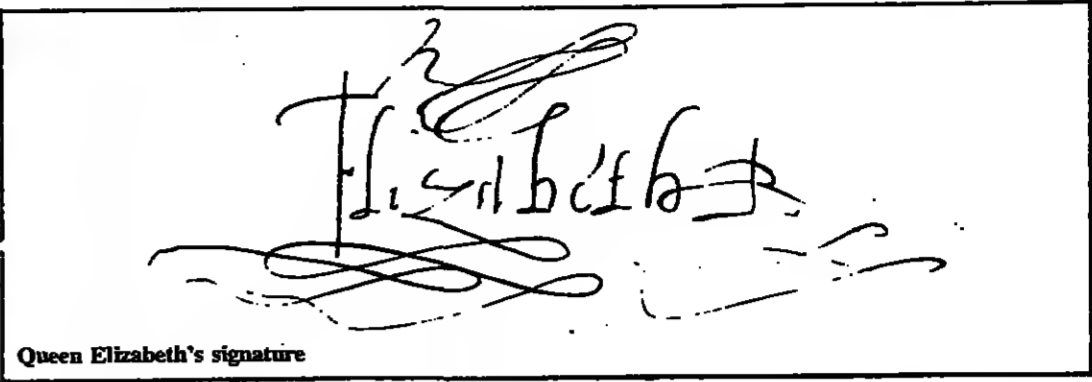
Shakespeare's England: a British Council gala



Shakespeare's signature



Portrait of the Bard by an unknown artist



Queen Elizabeth's signature

By Phyllis Hughes
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, April 21 — Administration manager Mr. Geoffrey Shakespeare has followed technical career rather than a literary one. He was born in Staffordshire, England, a long way from the town of Stratford-on-Avon. And he has lived in the Middle East for 27 years.

be provided by an Elizabethan ensemble. On May 11, there will be a lecture by the distinguished poet Mr. Leonard Clark. The exhibition covers many aspects of Shakespeare, his work and Elizabethan England. There will be information about the theatre of that time, poetry and language, music and even science and learning.

Shakespeare, although little known in the time of Elizabeth I and James I, has emerged as the greatest single figure of that age. His writings, now studied and appreciated all over the world, have stimulated great interest in the time in which he lived. The 16th century was a transitional period between medieval and modern history: the seeds of modern political institutions were



Map of the world as known in Shakespeare's day

an unlikely candidate for a descendant of the immortal Bard of Avon. But Mr. Shakespeare believes that he is distantly related to the Bard. A few years ago there was an exhibition in London of a tree and 400 Shakespeares located in England. That is a small number out of a population of over 54 million, and seems probable that there is a Shakespeare somewhere. Mr. Shakespeare, who works for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), told the Jordan Times. Although he himself has no claim as a writer or poet, an uncle of his, fascinated by the family connection, and tried to establish a link — but without any success. Shakespeare and his Swiss wife, Vanda, have been invited to represent the Bard and open the British Council's lavish exhibition "The Age of Shakespeare" on Thursday. They will select the lucky owners of 100 tickets issued to students and members of the British Council. The prize is a trip to England, a two-day visit to London and a two-day trip to Stratford-on-Avon at the end of June. The exhibition is the biggest the British Council will stage this year. Her Majesty Queen Noor is to attend the opening, when many guests will wear the Elizabethan costumes that are part of the magnificent display. More than 2,000 guests will attend.

end the garden party at the British Council offices. During the day there will be live performances on an open air stage of some Shakespearean pieces, recorded music and speeches related to the Shakespearean age, costumes, pictures, models and booklets. The exhibition itself will run until May 14, and will open to the general public on April 28. But Shakespearean events will not be restricted to the British Council building. There is to be a gala afternoon in the amphitheatre at Jerash when Brian Barnes of the Odeon Theatre will perform the Ides of March and pieces from the Roman tragedies. Mr. Barnes will give his performance on May 8. The following day, at the Haya Arts Centre, there will be scenes from Shakespeare performed in both English and Arabic by the Haya Centre players; music will



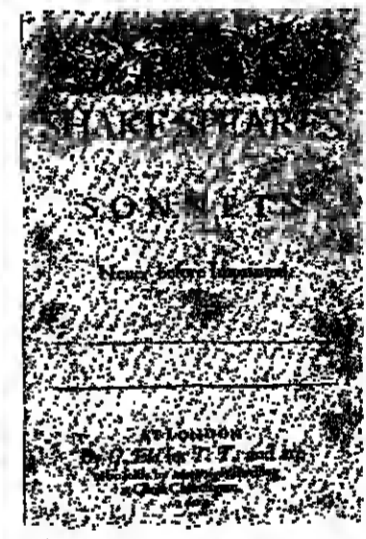
The glory that was England: Queen Elizabeth in procession



Title page of the King James Bible, 1611

gradually being sown; scholars were developing systematic methods of examining scientific data and the nature of the universe and a new rationalism was gaining ground in England as elsewhere in Europe. Moreover England was beginning to establish her pre-eminence as a seafaring nation; new trade routes were opened, horizons were broadened and an atmosphere of pride and self-confidence prevailed. In this atmosphere William Shakespeare was born in the small Midlands town of Stratford-upon-Avon, in 1564. His father, John Shakespeare, was a businessman and a prominent citizen, and his mother, Mary Arden, came from a leading local family. Little is known about Shakespeare's life. It seems probable

that he attended the King Edward VI grammar school in Stratford, where he would have studied Latin, rhetoric, history and the Bible. In 1582 he married Anne Hathaway, who was eight years his senior. Their first child, Susanna, was born in 1583, and two years later the couple had twins, Hamnet and Judith. Shakespeare secured the patronage of Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, to whom he dedicated his narrative poems "Venus and Adonis" and "The Rape of Lucrece." When the London playhouses reopened after the plague in 1592-3 Shakespeare invested some of his income from poetry and the theatre in the group of players known as the Lord Chamberlain's Men, and he remained associated with them for the rest of his career. His investment entitled him to a share of their profits which, largely through the enormous success of the plays he wrote for the company, enabled him to become a man of property in London and his native Warwickshire. Around 1612, Shakespeare retired from the theatre and returned to Stratford. He died there on April 23, 1616, and was buried in Holy Trinity Church.



Title page of a 1609 edition of Shakespeare's sonnets



Portraits by Nicholas Hilliard: above, man clasping a hand from a cloud (1588); below, Alice Hilliard (1578)



View of London, engraved around the year 1616

Selected Observations ON ENGLISH BODIES: OR, Cures both Empericall and Historicall, performed upon very eminent Persons in desperate Diseases. First, written in Latine by Mr. John Hall Physician, living at Stratford upon Avon in Warwick-shire, where he was very famous, as also in the Counties adjacent, as appears by these Observations drawn out of severall hundreds of his, as choylet. Now put into English for common benefit by James Coley Practitioner in Physick and Chirurgery. London, Printed for John Sturley, at the Golden Pelican, in Little-Britain. 1657.



splendour of Elizabethan architecture: Burgley House, Northamptonshire, built between 1575 and 1587

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM EMBASSY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
The embassy of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in Amman announces to the honourable Jordanian people that the embassy's weekend will be on Thursdays and Fridays instead of Fridays and Saturdays, as from April 23, 1981.

AVAILABLE
"Perferic" toilet machine: regularly serviced, and in first class condition. Only JD 750.
Telephone No. 62790, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

THE FISH & STEAK HOUSE
restaurant
GRAND OPENING ON 21-4-81
WE OFFER BEST QUALITY FRESH FISH & EUROPEAN STEAKS. PLUS DAILY "DISH-OF-THE-DAY" ALSO BREAKFAST DAILY FROM 7-11AM
THIRD CIRCLE - JABALAMMAN OPPOSITE INSURANCE BLDG.
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OPINION

Jordan Times
Responsible Editor: MOHAMMAD AHAB
Board of Directors: NIMA A. BAKHAR, RAJA BISSA, MOHAMMAD AHAB, MAHMOUD AL-KHAYAT
Managing Editor: HAZZ D. SHUKAYR
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION
Telephone: 21977-234

Murder in broad daylight

The killing of a young bedouin woman by an Israeli soldier on Feb. 26 has deeply shaken the bedouin community inside Israel. Sabiha Al Azazmeh, a mother of six, was sitting in the back of her husband's pick-up truck with her baby daughter when a soldier, ordered to expel the bedouins from their encampment, opened fire on her. He later said that he had only meant to frighten the family.

Why then in this case? The answer is very simple: because the victim, Sabiha Al Azazmeh, was a bedouin. None of the papers I have read criticised the shooting or expressed any surprise at the fact that soldiers were being sent on patrol duties to the heart of Israel with their fingers on the trigger.

but he would not have done either had it not been for the poisonous atmosphere now prevalent in the Naqab - and not only there but also in Jerusalem. Those affected by this mood have not just been soldiers and members of the Green Patrol but also, and more importantly, our politicians and military commanders.

The soldier, who claimed to have shot the woman unintentionally, has been detained for interrogation. I presume he has since been released until his trial. Any kind of punishment imposed on him will almost certainly be reduced by the chief of staff, whose habit of pardoning the killers of Arabs perhaps illustrates the present mood better than anything else.

Report in Ha'aretz, March 6, 1981: How hurt we Israelis preterid to be when our opponents accuse us of anything, but how indifferent we turned out to be when an Israeli Defence Force (IDF) soldier shot dead a mother of six in broad daylight, as she was holding an eight-month-old baby on her lap.

Another paper reported that the bedouin woman had been killed in what was described as an "army firing range". This sounded as if she had broken through a fence into an IDF training site, in which live bullets were buzzing through the air. But this was not so.

Amos Elon

Organise and eat
THE NATIONAL Consultative Council's special committee's report assessing the new five-year development plan has rightly stressed the importance of investments in agriculture; but we feel it has evaded the central deficiencies that have plagued Jordan's agricultural sector for the past several decades.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: The dangers posed by the Israeli project to open a canal connecting the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea have become clear. This project must be confronted not with mere denunciation and condemnation, but through a unified Arab stand capable of foiling the new Israeli aggression, which is no less dangerous than that of 1967.

its intention to terminate its educational services on the pretext of a lack of financial resources is closely linked with the international political situation, represented in the failure of the international community to restrain Israeli aggression, and the United States' insistence on supporting and protecting this aggression.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor: I refer to the report in your issue of April 20, concerning the meeting held by Mr. John Tanner, director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan, with representatives of the agency's staff in Jordan. I was present at this meeting and I wish to correct your report that the meeting was heated. It was not.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION
CHANNEL 3
5:30 Koran
5:45 Cartoons
6:10 Rainbow
6:25 B.J. and the Bear
7:10 Programme Preview
7:25 Local Programme
8:30 News in Arabic
8:30 Arabic series
9:30 Programme on Arts
10:00 Hawaii 5-0
11:05 News in Arabic
CHANNEL 6
6:00 French programme
7:00 News in French
7:20 French Varieties
7:30 News in Hebrew
8:30 Comedy: (Butterflies)
9:10 Lady Killers
10:00 News in English
10:15 Hawaii 5-0
RADIO JORDAN
85.5 KHz, AM
2.99 MHz, FM
7:00 Sign on
7:01 Morning Show
7:30 News Bulletin
7:40 Morning Show
10:00 News Headlines
10:03 Morning Show
10:30 30 Minute Theatre
11:00 Signing off
12:00 News Headlines
12:03 Pop Session
12:06 News Summary
13:03 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Country Music
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:03 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Water: Source of Food
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:03 Classical Showcase
18:30 Story Time
19:00 News Desk (News Bulletin, Press Review, News Reports)
19:10 News Reports
19:30 Disco
20:30 Evening Show
1:00 News Summary
21:03 Evening Show
21:57 News Headlines
22:00 Sign off
BBC WORLD SERVICE
339, 720, 1413 KHz
GMT
04:00 Newsdesk 04:30 Country
Style 04:45 Financial News 04:55
Reflections 05:00 World News: 24
Hours News Summary 05:30 Masters
of Early Music 05:45 The
World Today 06:00 Newsdesk

14:00 Jeddah (SV)
15:05 Lamaca (CY)
15:30 Kuwait (KAC)
15:35 Zurich (SR)
16:15 Cairo
16:40 Frankfurt
17:10 Copenhagen, Athens
17:50 Zurich (SR)
17:45 Brussels, Geneva
17:45 Cairo (EA)
18:25 Cairo (EA)
18:30 Rome, Damascus (AZ)
19:00 Cairo
19:05 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
19:35 Bangkok, Ahn Dhabi
20:00 Beirut (MEA)
20:55 London (BA)
24:00 Baghdad
01:00 Cairo
DEPARTURES:
5:45 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
6:45 Frankfurt
7:00 Beirut (SR)
7:40 Paris (AF)
8:00 Agaba
8:55 Cairo (EA)
9:25 Beirut (MEA)
9:30 London (BA)
10:10 Athens, Amsterdam (KLM)
11:00 Cairo
11:15 Tripoli, Tunis
12:00 London
12:20 Athens, Copenhagen (SK)
12:50 Cairo
14:00 Bucharest
14:15 Lamaca, Bucharest
14:15 (Tarom)
14:25 Cairo (EA)
15:00 Jeddah (SV)
15:55 Lamaca (CY)
16:30 Kuwait (KAC)
17:00 Baghdad (SK)
18:30 Kuwait (SR)
19:30 Bahrain, Doha
19:30 Kuwait
19:40 Cairo (EA)
20:00 Baghdad
20:00 Cairo
20:30 Jeddah
20:45 Dhakran
21:15 Dubai, Ras Al Khaima
CULTURAL CENTRES
American Centre 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Turkish Cultural Centre 24949
Haya Arts Centre 65195
Al Hussein Youth City 67181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.A. 64251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 84355/84366
SERVICE CLUBS
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Grand Palace Hotel, 1.30 p.m.
Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 1.30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Thursday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
MUSEUMS
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-mund. Tel. 23316
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PRAYER TIMES
Fajr 3:26
Sunrise 4:59
Dhuhr 11:37
'Asr 3:16
Maghreb 6:16
'Isha 7:35
LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES
Saudi riyal 97.5/98.1
Lebanese pound 81/81.6
Syrian pound 50/50.9
Iraqi dinar 745/750
Kuwaiti dinar 1182.3/1188.6
Egyptian pound 393/397.7
Qatari riyal 89.5/89.9
UAE dirham 88.7/89
Omani riyal 941/945
U.S. dollar 326/328
U.K. sterling 708.1/712.3
W. German mark 150/150.9
Swiss franc 164.6/165.6
Italian lire 29.8/30
(for every 100)
French franc 63.5/63.9
Dutch guilder 135.2/136
Swedish crown 68.8/69.2
Belgium franc 91.1/91.6
Japanese yen 149.7/150.6
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Al Adham (—)
Irbid:
Palestine (—)
TAXIS:
Asfour 23290
Khalid 23715
Al-Shahid 21091
Rania 25095
Sultan 51998
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FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, APR. 22, 1981
YOUR DAILY Horoscope
from the Carroll Righter Institute
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MIDDLE EAST

In statement ending nine-day session PNC raps terrorism

RAMMUS, April 21 (R) — The Palestinian National Council (PNC) in a statement ending a nine-day session in Damascus on Sunday, condemned terrorism, but regarded Israel and the United States as those chiefly guilty of the action.

The condemnation came in a statement issued by the council which ended a nine-day session in Damascus on Sunday, for more than two years.

The statement, read to reporters by PNC Speaker Khaled Yasser, and incorporating a series of resolutions adopted by the council, declared that "the council condemned terrorism international terrorism."

It added that the main examples of terrorism are Zionism, which is being exercised in the Palestinian people, the Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Lebanese people, as well as American imperialism which is being exercised in liberation movements throughout the world.

It was believed to be the first time the council had denounced terrorism, even in its intimation, although PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has spoken against it in the past.

Some groups within the PLO hijacked aircraft, although he said they do not regard it as terrorism.

Palestinian leaders have been criticized by a recent statement by National Security Adviser Alexander Haig who accused them of terrorism. Israel has also maintained the PLO is a terrorist organization.

Yesterday's statement took a stand on the Middle East initiative being prepared by the European Economic Community (EEC), but did not reject it as some radical Palestinian leaders have done.

It said the PLO must pursue diplomatic activities abroad, including Western Europe.

It added that any initiative should be based on rejection of the sponsored Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt, recognition of the PLO as sole representative of the Palestinian people and of their right to establish their own state.

This was an apparent signal to the EEC that the PLO expected some kind of statement to this effect. None of the 10 EEC states has yet formally recognised the PLO.

The PNC has elected a new 15-man executive committee which raised the strength of the moderate Fateh group from two to three while re-adopting the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) which had pulled out seven years ago.

The trade-off, which coincided with repeated calls for Palestinian national unity, was seen as the main move to close PLO ranks in the face of the threat to the organisation posed by the Camp David accords, signed in 1979.

Yesterday's statement urged Arab and Islamic countries, especially oil producing states, to push Western nations towards recognition of the PLO. There was no specific call for any drastic use of the oil weapon.

The statement welcomed a proposal earlier this year by Soviet president Leonid Brezhnev for an

all-party conference on the Middle East.

It attacked U.S. plans for a Rapid Deployment Force to defend the Gulf against possible Soviet infiltration, and said that the Gulf and Red Sea region should be free of military bases and pacts.

On Lebanon, the statement rejected any kind of external intervention, a clear reference to apparently defunct proposals by France and the U.S. to send an international force to end the fighting there or to involve the United Nations.

It praised the role of the all-Syrian Arab Deterrent Force (ADF) which entered Lebanon to end the civil war there in 1976. The Syrian troops have clashed this month with rightist militiamen in Beirut and east Lebanon.

The statement announced a plan to conscript Palestinians living outside Israeli-occupied territories into Palestinian forces and called on "Arab and friendly countries" to cooperate. It gave no details of how the scheme would work.

Kuwait hopeful about Lebanese conference

KUWAIT, April 21 (A.P.) — Kuwait's foreign minister has said the Palestine Liberation Organisation had welcomed a Kuwaiti proposal for a round-table conference to discuss the Lebanese crisis and said Kuwait could convince Syria to attend, official sources here reported.

"We are still waiting for the official reactions of the parties concerned in the Lebanese situation before extending official invitations to the meeting," Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said.

The Kuwaiti minister, in an interview with the Lebanese English-language weekly Monday Morning, invited all warring factions in Lebanon to hold round-table conference in Kuwait.

Sheikh Sabah's appeal came after two weeks of intense fighting in Lebanon between Syrian peacekeeping forces and rightist militias in Beirut and east Lebanon's city of Zahle. A shaky ceasefire had been in effect since April 8.

He said Palestine Liberation Organisation Chief Yasser Arafat had welcomed the proposal adding this reaction was seen as a positive step.

Officials here said Mr. Arafat had told the Kuwaiti minister that

"The PLO is prepared to contribute to any effort aimed at resolving the Lebanese crisis."

The head of the PLO's political department was quoted as saying the Kuwaiti initiative would be "taken by the executive committee when we receive an official invitation."

Lebanon's rights leader, Mr. Camille Chamoun, leader of the Lebanese Rightist Coalition, said he could not consider a dialogue with Syria after yesterday's renewed clashes between Syrian forces and the rightist militia, however.

Sheikh Sabah was quoted as saying his government has "The ability to talk to Syrian leaders and convince them to attend the meeting."

He added that Kuwait had maintained "neutral relations with all parties involved in the Lebanese crisis and bore no enmity to any side."

He said Kuwait's ambassador to Lebanon, Mr. Abdul Hamid Al Buaiani had been asked to follow up contacts with Lebanon.

The Arab League sanctioned the dispatch of some 40,000 Syrian troops, to Lebanon to smother the 1975-76 civil war.

The Gulf states, scene of Thatcher's visit Variations on a common theme

BAHRAIN, April 21 (R) — The Gulf states which British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is visiting this week are national variations on a common theme of oil and traditional Arab culture.

Each has its distinctive stamp, moulded by the particular history of its people and its oil industry.

Saudi Arabia, where Mrs. Thatcher started her Gulf tour, is a vast desert kingdom half the size of India but with only seven million people. It produces 20 per cent of all the non-communist world's oil but is still struggling to provide schooling and basic services for many of its citizens.

Kuwait, which Mrs. Thatcher will visit later this year, is a city-state which had fabulous oil wealth in the 1950s when the Saudi oil industry was in its infancy. The city, in a triangle of desert on the Gulf coast, is a cluster of stylish new blocks linked by tree-lined highways.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federation of tiny communities whose ancestors were camel-herding nomads, fishermen, farmers or pirates. Only one of them, Abu Dhabi, is a major oil producer, and there is less than 10 years a desert village has turned into a concrete city which still has a distinctly unfinished air.

Oman in the south of the Arabian Peninsula is a land of mountains and farming villages. During the 18th and 19th centuries it was the centre of an empire that stretched across the Indian ocean to east Africa and the sea, not the desert, gives it its character.

But Qatar is a desert peninsula of rock and sand jutting out into the Gulf, home before the oil boom to bedouin nomads and a few pearl-divers and fishermen and now another bustling city-state.

Bahrain, the sixth member of

the community of Gulf states recently formalised as the Gulf Cooperation Council, is a small island with fertile agricultural lands which has also been a crossroads for trade since ancient times.

All are traditional societies which until the last 50 years lived a life of quiet isolation, largely cut off by the desert from the rest of the Middle East.

All then shot to international fame and fortune when the West started to use their oil to fuel the economic boom that followed the Second World War.

But the states are also poor in almost all resources other than oil. Their populations are small and largely unskilled, water supplies are limited.

The combination of oil, lack of other resources, and sudden wealth has given them all the same cluster of problems, though with a local twist in each.

All the Gulf countries have had

to import large numbers of foreigners to man the booming economies. After oil exporters pushed up prices fourfold in 1974 the Gulf states for the first time had massive surpluses of revenues to invest and they set to building modern cities with all amenities and luxuries where a generation before there had stood only mud houses or palm-leaf huts.

But labour and skills were not enough and now in some places the foreigners outnumber the locals.

Rapid change, much of it concentrated over the last seven years, has strained traditional society, so that the new five-year development plan in Saudi Arabia speaks of "widespread concern in government and among citizens over the dangers of traditional culture and values being undermined by alien values and a spirit of materialism."

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Explosion rips Dubai hotel 48 hours before Thatcher's visit

DUBAI, April 21 (A.P.) — An explosion ripped apart a ninth story service elevator in Dubai's Hyatt Regency hotel last night, 48 hours before British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's scheduled arrival here in the course of her Arab Peninsula tour. Police said two hotel employees were killed and several others wounded in the blast, the cause of which could not yet be determined.

Mrs. Thatcher, who is due in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi this evening, will proceed to visit Dubai tomorrow. Dubai is the main port of the UAE, a federation of seven Trucial States that were under Britain's protection until its east of Suez pullout in 1971. A British embassy spokesman in Dubai saw no reason to connect the explosion with Mrs. Thatcher's visit.

"The Hyatt Regency is not, and never was, on the prime minister's schedule and indeed her tour of the town will not take her near it," the spokesman said. He said, however, the embassy was keeping in close touch with the local police about the matter.

"Mrs. Thatcher's visit is still going ahead," he said, "unless the police advises us differently as a result of its investigation." A month ago, a Syrian-owned restaurant in Dubai was the target of a bomb attack.

London court won't free Dubai sheikh of loan interest

LONDON, April 21 (R) — The London High Court has rejected arguments by a Dubai sheikh that Islamic law freed him from paying interest on a Eurodollar loan, lawyers for the main bank involved in the case said today.

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum, nephew of the ruler of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), had filed a suit in an Abu Dhabi court asking that interest on the loan of \$15.7 million which he had already paid should be regarded as repayment. An international syndicate of banks, led by the National Bank of Abu Dhabi which granted the loan, filed another suit in the London High Court claiming that the sheikh should pay interest because the loan agreement came under English law. Lawyers for National Bank of Abu Dhabi today said the London court last week rejected the sheikh's argument and, in a summary judgment, awarded the full amount due under the loan, principal and interest, plus costs, to the bank.

According to bankers in Bahrain, it was the first case in which a Muslim had tried to invoke Islamic law on a foreign currency loan agreement.

Egypt urges step-up of U.S. arms supplies

CAIRO, April 21 (R) — Egyptian Defence Minister Abdel Halim Abu Ghazala left for Washington today to urge the Reagan administration to step up arms supplies to Cairo. Defence ministry officials said Egypt was particularly interested in obtaining the American EC-130 Hawkeye surveillance aircraft and air defence equipment.

Gen. Ghazala would also discuss training for Egyptian pilots on U.S. F-16 jets, they said. President Anwar Sadat disclosed last week that he hoped to obtain Hawkeye aircraft. "I do not want us to sit here blind, just like sitting ducks," he told visiting American senators. The U.S. is Cairo's main weapons supplier and is committed to provide Egypt with more than \$3 billion in military aid. Deliveries so far have included F-4 Phantoms and M-60 tanks.

Sudan, Djibouti to cooperate for peace, stability in Horn

KHARTOUM, April 21 (R) — Sudan and Djibouti called today for an end to foreign intervention in the Horn of Africa and agreed to work together for peace and stability in the area. A statement issued here at the end of a three-day visit by Djibouti President Hassan Gouled said that "the two sides have voiced a full and sincere commitment to finding suitable circumstances for attaining security, stability and understanding among the peoples of the Horn of Africa."

The statement said President Gouled and his host, President Jaafar Numeyri, called for an end to foreign intervention in the Horn and stressed their support for the principles of co-existence and non-interference in internal affairs. On the problem of Chad, the two countries stressed the importance of finding a solution through the efforts of the committee of 12 set up by the Organisation of African Unity. President Gouled recently visited Kenya and the Horn countries of Ethiopia and Somalia.

Ever had a hamburger in Cairo?

By Magda Banisanga

CAIRO — Whips cracking, herding and grunts above, Cairo's camel market gets away twice a week on a dusty acre (two-hectare) lot west of the city, where the calls of buyers and sellers compete with the groans of the camels.

Over 1,000 of the one-humped creatures ramble around the market on Monday, the first day in what is said to be the city's largest camel souk.

About 2,000 camels are sold each week," said Sheikh Ali Al-Qassim, a Sudanese camel merchant.

While a few camels can be seen carrying loads around the streets of Cairo and in the country, or giving rides at tourist attractions and posing for pictures, most of the camels at the Imbaba souk are headed for dinner tables and the carnivores' cages at the Cairo Zoo.

"About 90 per cent of the meat used in Egypt is camel meat," Mr. Abul-Qassim said with a conspiratorial grin. "Any time you order hamburgers or meatballs in a restaurant in Cairo you can be sure it's camel meat."

Because of the toughness of the meat, the animal's basically mean nature and the widespread image of camels as beasts of burden or

tourist conveyances, most Egyptians have a horror of eating camel meat.

"Very often, if you don't know much about meat, that's what you're buying at the butcher's even if you think you're getting beef," said a butcher's agent who would not give his name. "It's cheaper for him to buy camel."

Meat prices, never low because of the cost of importing beef and lamb from as far away as Australia and New Zealand, rose rapidly last summer, reaching \$6.40 for a kilogramme.

President Anwar Sadat called for a month-long boycott of meat last September, and set a government ceiling of \$4 per kilo-

gramme at the end of the ban. Butchers adhered to the fixed price briefly, but meat prices are now approaching five dollars a kilogramme.

Egyptians, with a per capita income of \$370 a year, can only afford meat as a luxury on special occasions, even at the lower price.

Mr. Abul-Qassim said, "with the traders at Imbaba selling the best quality camel still alive at \$2.2 per kilogramme, it follows that the butchers find the government ceiling unrealistic."

Sheikh Ali and his brother Ibrahim have their offices at the market, one of 14 principal agents who set up there to handle the lively trade. Most of the agents and

sellers are Sudanese.

"There are about two or three million camels in the northern part of the Sudan. Each year some 70,000 are sent to Egypt," Sudan's largest market, making the 1,120 kilometres trip to its southern borders on hoof, Mr. Abul-Qassim said. The remaining 800 kilometres to Cairo is covered by train or truck.

Ali and Ibrahim bring some 2,000 camels to Cairo each year, in 20 trips between the months of October and May, before the scorching summer heat sets in.

Egypt does not breed camels. About 4,000 of the camels brought to Egypt each year are left in the south where they are used as beasts of burden. Those who are no longer fit to work, and their offspring, cover Egypt's needs in the summer months.

Mr. Abul-Qassim said Sudanese merchants buy the camels from the northern tribes for about \$640 for each prime beast. The same animal may fetch \$1,000 in Cairo.

"But you have to remember we don't only pay for the camel," said Mr. Abul-Qassim, 51, an agriculture graduate of Cairo university.

"The head driver... is a trail expert who charges about 300 dollars. Camel-benders helping him cost about 140 dollars each. On top of that we provide them with their food for the journey, and any watering fees they may have to pay along the way," said Mr. Abul-Qassim.

At the Imbaba camel market, the animal's weight is part of the arduous bargaining process. There are no scales.

The seller will claim his camel weighs some 700 pounds, the buyer vouches it is only 500, and a compromise is reached.

"Then the butcher takes the camels he's bought, sells them in his shop and to the tanneries, and comes back the next week to pay me, and take a fresh load he'll pay for the following week. There's a lot of good faith involved," said Mr. Abul-Qassim. (AP)



While a few camels can be seen... giving rides at tourist attractions or posing for pictures, most of the camels at the Imbaba souk are headed for dinner tables.

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ECONOMY

Kuwait drops premium demand, ending weeks of speculation

TOKYO, April 21 (R) — Kuwait has dropped a controversial demand that western oil companies pay a premium on top of its official price for oil, oil industry sources said here today.

The oil companies had refused to accept such premiums in negotiating new supply contracts with Kuwait saying they were unjustified because the market was well-supplied with crude.

Kuwait announced today that the negotiations with the oil companies had ended but details of the accord were not disclosed.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah told Reuters in Kuwait that the talks had been completed, adding "I hope we will sign soon," he declined further comment.

A spokesman for British Petroleum

(BP), one of the companies involved, said in London that talks with Kuwait were heading towards a satisfactory conclusion but no formal agreement had been reached.

Spokesmen for two other companies involved, Gulf Oil of the U.S. and the Royal Dutch Shell Group, refused all comment.

Petroleum Intelligence Weekly,

the Japanese oil industry sources said agreement with Western oil companies might set the pace for similar negotiations that the Japanese oil companies Idemitsu

Kosan Kaisha and Dai-kyo are holding with Kuwait.

The sources said that Kuwait this month stopped loading oil for the companies involved, although British Petroleum denied last week that supplies had been interrupted.

Western and Japanese oil companies held out against paying premiums of one to three dollars a

barrel on top of Kuwait's official price, \$35.50 apparently worried that surrender could tempt other members of OPEC to take a more militant line on crude oil pricing.

Falling demand because of recession and fuel-saving together with high output by some OPEC members, notably Saudi Arabia, has led to an oil glut developing on world markets, which has depressed prices.

Kuwait OKs loan to Iraq

KUWAIT, April 21 (A.P.) — Kuwait's National Assembly today approved a government-sponsored bill for extending a big loan to Iraq to help it develop its war-strained economy, parliamentary sources said.

The sources, who did not wish to be identified, did not reveal the exact amount of the loan, but earlier reports put it at \$2 billion.

The National Assembly held an ordinary session in the morning, but later the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, asked for a closed-door session to debate the loan bill.

Kuwait's well-informed Al Rai Al Am newspaper reported last week that four Arab Gulf states had pledged a total of \$14 billion in loans to Iraq.

The paper quoted well-informed sources in Abu Dhabi as saying Saudi Arabia had pledged \$6 billion, Kuwait \$4 billion, the United Arab Emirates \$3 billion and Qatar, \$1 billion.

Gulf states agreed on the loans to help boost Iraq's economy and complete its development projects, despite the seven-month war with Iran, the paper said.

West German banks wince from financial squeeze

By Ron Alpe

FRANKFURT (R) — West German banks, which have played a large part in the country's post-war economic miracle, are wincing from a squeeze on profits.

Of the big three Frankfurt finance houses, only the biggest, Deutsche Bank, can look back on a successful 1980. Commerzbank, West Germany's third largest bank, has had to tell its shareholders they will be receiving no dividend, and Dresdner Bank has trimmed its payout by a third.

Part of the troubles stem from the tight-money policies of the central banking authorities which have meant that commercial banks had to pay high interest rates to refinance cash they had previously lent to customers.

The central bank (Bundesbank) and the government feel interest rates need to be high to attract money from abroad to help finance a huge balance-of-payments gap. Last February the Bundesbank reluctantly pushed German interest rates sharply higher to shore up the mark against the strong dollar.

Deutsche Bank, which has a big lead on its competitors in savings and checking accounts, alone managed to shrug off the squeeze and even raised its dividend slightly after 1980 group profits rose to 457 million marks (\$213 million).

Dresdner Bank, however, cut its dividend from nine marks to six (\$2.80), a move that was unprecedented in its postwar history and indeed in the history of any West German bank. A managing

board spokesman, Mr. Hans Friederichs, said the reduced payout, coupled with a recently announced issue of new shares, will help give the bank room for further expansion.

Commerzbank is in worse straits, for even with no dividend payout it has a net profit of only 54 million marks (\$16 million) to play with, compared with 120 million (\$58.6 million) in 1979.

The Bundesbank's tight monetary policy hit Commerzbank worst of all, partly because it had gone aggressively for growth and made too many long-term loans at a fixed rate of interest.

Many banks also had to reduce the value of stocks and bonds in their investment portfolios in a year when the domestic bond market was often in disarray and the stock markets frequently

under a cloud.

The signs are that banks have learnt their lesson, recalling as far as possible their long-term loans and only signing new deals if the terms are right. The days of growth at any price seem to be over.

The current year may not bring much relief for the banks unless there is a sudden and unexpected change in Bundesbank policies.

In fact the central bank has tightened its credit squeeze, driving up interest rates by about three percentage points since it temporarily suspended its lombard lending "window" to the commercial banks on February 19 and replaced it with a special lombard facility which it opens and closes at will.

The aim was to help the warring mark against the strong dollar, a

tactic which proved successful. But the financial squeeze again hit the banks.

In response to a growing clamour for West German banks to sell their holdings in industrial concerns, some have acted to raise cash by shedding shares. Dresdner sold part of its holding in the Frankfurt-based metals and chemicals concern metallgesellschaft to Kuwait, and together with Commerzbank it disposed of most of its holding in the Kaufhof store group.

Only Commerzbank has made high-level changes in personnel, bringing in Walter Seipp from Westdeutsche Landesbank of Dueseldorf as its new chairman to replace Robert Dhom.

Certain sectors of West German banking proved resilient to the problems of 1980, for instance

mortgage loans. Yet a prominent bank in this sector, Munich-based Bayerische Hypothek- und Wechsel Bank, was forced this week to cut its dividend.

Deutsche Bank said its successful results were due to a moderate increase in business volume. In its annual report the bank said extra capital raised in 1979 was used to expand credit business, concentrating on loans with flexible conditions.

A spokesman for the joint management board, Mr. Wilhelm Christians, said the bank in 1980 emphasised earnings before expansion, and short and medium term credits rather than long term.

He said results improved largely because of a bigger surplus on interest, and profits from transactions in securities, foreign exchange and precious metals.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, April 21 (R) — Equities closed easier with last week's record levels attracting some profit taking and at 15:00 the FT Index was down 3.9 at 564.6 having touched 564.4.

Selling pressure was moderate and some short covering left a few issues above the day's lows. Falls on the day ranged to around 8p among leading issues. Government bonds rose as much as half a point in thin trading, dealers said.

Gold shares and Canadian stocks closed mixed while U.S. issues moved higher.

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WORLD

Scotland Yard: 'We have no idea why it started'

Rioting erupts in 3 London Easter fairs

LONDON, April 21 (Agencies) — Residents in three areas of London were clearing up today after hundreds of youths, most of them black, rioted at

But the government-funded Commission for Racial Equality said the violence was not connected with the riots in the multi-racial south London district of Brixton 10 days ago in which some 150 police officers were injured and more than 200 people arrested.

"Brixton was a completely separate affair from this Easter violence which seems to recur each year and is common to both black and white young people," a commission spokesman said.

The violence began last night at fairgrounds at Finsbury Park in north London. Wansley in east London and Ealing Common in West London, spreading to surrounding streets, police said.

"We have no idea why the incident started," a Scotland Yard spokesman said. "A group of black youths started throwing stones at officers."

The worst incidents were at Finsbury Park where several hundred black youths smashed lightbulbs and windows and then began throwing stones and other missiles at the police. Scotland Yard Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Radley said.

"From the park they ran into the streets and various splinter groups began stoning police, attacking passers-by, breaking windows and stealing from shops," Mr. Radley said.

Police arrested 91 people and 32 members of the

Easter holiday fairs, injuring more than 80 people, including at least 50 police officers.

public were taken to hospital with injuries. In Ealing, 16 kms from Finsbury Park the regular Easter fair there, organised mainly by whites, was closed early after trouble flared. "Some 300 black youths ran among through the fairgrounds" said a police spokesman.

Mr. Radley said there were similar disturbances at Ealing Common and Wansley where 200 to 300 black youths broke shop windows and damaged police vehicles. Sixteen arrests were made.

"The attacks appear to have been indiscriminate as not only police officers but also passers-by were attacked," Mr. Radley said.

There has been trouble at London fairgrounds on previous holidays but police said it had never been as bad as yesterday.

Barbados-born Jeff Crawford, senior community relations officer for Harringay Borough which include Finsbury Park, said that high unemployment, blamed by many community leaders for the Brixton riots, was not a root cause of last night's violence.

He compared the young blacks with mobs of white youths who went on the rampage in four British seaside resorts over the weekend, when police made more than 200 arrests.

"I think what happened last night was that there was a gang of lawless pack of youths just off their heads," he said.

Sands' demand for political status

Thatcher says 'No'

RIYADH, April 21 (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said today she regretted a hunger strike by jailed Irish Republican guerrilla Bobby Sands but said there was no question of giving him the status of political prisoner which he has been seeking.

"There is no question of granting political status for someone who is serving a sentence for a crime," Mrs. Thatcher told a news conference on the last day of a visit to Saudi Arabia. "To do that would be to put many other people in jeopardy."

Mr. Sands is serving 14 years for illegal possession of firearms and was elected this month as a member of the British parliament from Northern Ireland. He has been fasting for 51 days to back his demand that Irish Republican prisoners be granted special status as political prisoners.

Mrs. Thatcher said three members of parliament from the Irish Republic who had visited the hunger striker at the Maze prison near Belfast yesterday should make representations about the matter through their own government. She said it was not her habit to discuss directly with parliamentarians of another country cases involving United Kingdom citizens inside the United Kingdom.

Mrs. Thatcher said she regretted the hunger strike and hoped that by his own sake Mr. Sands would end his protest.

She said Northern Ireland had a very humane prison system and added that prisoners opposed to wearing prison clothes were themselves trying to achieve the trappings of political status.

7 South Asian nations confer

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, April 21 (A.P.) — Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed today underscored a mood of confidence that some kind of association of South Asian nations would emerge out of the Colombo conference of regional foreign secretaries, which he formally opened here yesterday.

"Given our commonality, our high level of bilateral activity and existing forms of cooperation, the task ahead is really one of putting these pieces together in a cohesive and productive whole," he said.

Delegations led by the foreign secretaries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives are attending the Colombo meeting which observers expect would pave the way for a foreign ministers meeting and an eventual summit that could result in an ASEAN type of grouping of South Asian nations.

SPORTS NEWS BRIEFS

Blind man, 71, begins 5,800-km bicycle race

PALO ALTO, California, April 21 (A.P.) — Thomas Dickey, 71 years old and legally blind, today began a cross-country bicycle ride which he hopes will put him in Amherst, Massachusetts, in time for his college reunion. Dickey and 24-year-old Chris Sammartano, who will graduate from Amherst this year, expect to cover the 5,800 kms in about six weeks on their tandem bicycle. The trip occurred to Dickey as "a wild idea. But then I began to think, why not?" He tried to find him a partner for the journey and Sammartano, who had a free semester, volunteered. "I thought it would be a great thing to do," said Sammartano, who has been just an occasional bike rider. Dickey, a retired teacher who was forced to switch from regular bikes to tandems when his vision deteriorated in 1975. He pays students from nearby Stanford University to ride with him, and has logged more than 10,000 kms in one year. If they keep to their schedule, the pair should arrive just in time for Dickey's reunion, set for June 6. "I'm looking forward to it, and believe me, no-one will be gladder to get there than I will," said Dickey.

Double-leg amputee wins Boston Marathon

BOSTON, April 21 (A.P.) — Jim Martinson rolled to a quick lead, then avoided a collision with a horse yesterday to win the wheelchair portion of the 85th Boston Marathon. Martinson, runner-up last year in his first Boston Marathon, beat fellow American and defending champion Curt Brinkman, by more than six minutes, crossing the finish line in 2:00:41 seconds his chair three-quarters of a mile from the finish when he swerved to avoid a car, edged another American Bob Hall. Brinkman finished in 2:07:05 and Hall in 2:07:29. "Nobody ever passed me," said Martinson a resident of the Seattle suburb. "I knew by the fifth mile that it would be awful hard to catch me. And encouragement from the crowd was fantastic. I was so excited that I had tears in my eyes." The wheelchair competitors were given a 15-minute head start to avoid the confusion of competing with nearly 7,000 striders entered in this year's marathon. But confusion found them anyway. About four miles from the finish line, Martinson said, a horse ridden by a policeman ran in front of him. "I almost ran over it and I had to swerve around to keep going," said Martinson, a double-leg amputee who has been on a wheelchair for five years.

Promoter Brenner's beef with WBC in court

NEW YORK, April 21 (A.P.) — Boxing promoter Teddy Brenner, pursuing his anti-trust lawsuit against the World Boxing Council and its president, has alleged that promoter Don King reneged on their 1979 arrangement involving the rights to champion fighter Alexis Arguello. In a pre-trial deposition read yesterday in U.S. district court, Brenner said he and King agreed on the championship services of Arguello before the boxer successfully defended his super featherweight title against Alfredo Escalera in Italy in February 1979. Brenner said he was to pay King \$25,000 and retain exclusive rights to Arguello's title defenses. He said, however, that he later learned that King had changed the agreement, so Brenner stopped payment on the \$25,000 check. In May 1979 Brenner was suspended by Jose Sulaiman, president of the WBC. Brenner's lawsuit seeks to have the Mexican City-based WBC dissolved in the United States, in addition to \$3 million in monetary damages. He contends his suspension was an illegal move to stop him from promoting WBC fights and to deprive him of making a living. Sulaiman and the WBC have denied the charges. They claim Brenner was suspended for refusing to register with the commission or to attempt to have his differences resolved.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Havana releases four American sailors

WASHINGTON, April 21 (A.P.) — Cuban authorities have released four American sailors who were taken into custody on Sunday after their boat inadvertently strayed into Cuban waters, the U.S. State Department announced. Spokesman David Nall said the four were turned over to Mr. Wayne Smith, the head of the U.S. interests section in Havana at 3 p.m. local time yesterday. The sailors, all from the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, will fly to the United States today, Mr. Nall said.

Italian financier convicted for bail-jump

NEW YORK, April 21 (R) — Italian financier Michele Sindona was convicted yesterday of jumping bail to avoid trial on bank fraud charges, on which he was eventually sentenced for 25 years. Sentencing was set for June 1, when more years could be added to his prison term. Mr. Sindona, 60, disappeared on Aug. 2, 1979, just before he was due to be tried on charges of swindling millions of dollars from the Franklin National Bank, a Long Island bank which he owned and collapsed. It is one of the biggest bank swindlings in U.S. history. He appeared three months later claiming that he had been kidnapped by extremists interested in getting material to be used against Italy's ruling Christian Democratic Party. He stood trial and was sentenced to 25 years on bank fraud charges. But later investigations proved he was not kidnapped but fled United States to avoid prosecution.

Alitalia pilots end strike but...

ROME, April 21 (R) — Alitalia flights resumed today following a seven-day Easter pilots' strike over a pay claim but air travel to and from Italy faced further disruption from controllers and groundstaff. Counter staff and baggage handlers at Rome's two airports were staging a 24-hour strike today, causing long check-in and boarding delays. Alitalia said. Air traffic controllers said they would also stop work for four hours on Thursday and all day on April 30 to back their pay claim. Alitalia said that the pilots' strike forced it to cancel at least 60 per cent of its domestic and international flights over the busy holiday period.

Police shoot dead 10 in south India

NEW DELHI, April 21 (R) — Police shot dead ten people and wounded nine after being attacked by a violent crowd of tribesmen in a south Indian village last night, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said today. PTI, quoting official reports, said one policeman was killed and more than 20 were injured at Indravalli village in Andhra Pradesh state by a crowd of 5,000 armed with sticks, axes, sickles and knives. Violence erupted after the tribesmen, said to belong to an extremist organisation, staged a march in defiance of an official ban on demonstrations in the village. 34 kilometres from Adilabad. Police said the ban was imposed to prevent possible violence between the tribal organisation and a rival non-tribal group which had planned to meet at the same place.

Atlanta police find 3rd body in Chattahoochee

ATLANTA, April 21 (A.P.) — A body was found yesterday afternoon in the Chattahoochee River, where two of the 24 young blacks slain here since July 1979 were pulled from the muddy waters just a month ago, authorities said. The 24th victim was found Easter Sunday.

The Fulton County police department said the body was discovered in the river southwest of here at the boundary between Fulton and Douglas counties. He said it had not been determined whether the body was that of an adult or a child.

Medical examiners meanwhile have said that 15-year-old Joseph Bell probably died of asphyxiation. The youngest was slain, stripped and dumped into the South River. His decomposed body was found floating face-down in an isolated bend of the suburban river on Sunday.

Little love for Giscard in the Vosges

The first round of the French presidential election takes place on April 26. Terry Dodsworth visited the Vosges region, the heart of the depressed French textile industry, to gauge the mood.

"We are living from day to day, trying not to think," says Mr. Jacques Dehy, head of SNPP, one of the two textile companies which support the small town of Chatel, near Epinal, in the Vosges.

"Our future depends on the government, because we are unable to compete with the costs of overseas producers. The French textile industry is dead — and it's not me that says it, it's the figures."

All his costs — raw materials, energy and salaries — have gone up in the past year, he says. His prices have gone down to such an extent that each kilo he sells is adding to his losses.

Mr. Dehy, a former Second World War resistance fighter, is a natural supporter of the traditional post-war Gaullist right. Like many other voters in this strongly conservative region, he accepted President Valery Giscard d'Estaing seven years ago as preferable to Mr. Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist candidate.

But he has been deeply disappointed by the industrial record of the present liberal Government. "I cannot vote again for people who are destroying me," he says.

What makes the crisis in the textile industry particularly important in the present election campaign is that it can be related directly to the liberalising economic policies of President Giscard and Mr. Raymond Barre, his prime minister. As a recent parliamentary report on the industry vividly illustrated, the government's central economic doctrines isolate it from most currents of French industrial thinking.

The Vosges weaving industry has remained relatively conservative and close to rural traditions. Even today, many small

farmers and their wives work in the mills, splitting the morning and afternoon shifts and milking the cows in between. Although the companies argue they have invested heavily in recent years, they



Mr. Francois Mitterrand, the principal contender now as in 1974 campaigning.

The crisis came suddenly, about a year ago. For the past two decades, the Vosges manufacturers, specialists in grey woven cloth which generally goes elsewhere to be finished, have been in difficulties, gradually shedding labour and rationalising production. But in 1980, imports began to rise, consumption dropped, and prices fell through the floor.

Most Vosges manufacturers are

ryone believes more cuts will follow the May election.

Where the Gaullists, Socialists and even Communists are in agreement is in calling for much more intervention to shore up the traditional sectors.

Because of an alliance between technocrats and liberals in the government, such industries as textiles are being abandoned, argues Mr. Philippe Seguin, the MP for Epinal, one of the two Gaullist seats in the four Vosges textile

constituencies.

"The technocrats have been more interested in nuclear power than women working on sewing machines," he says, "while the liberals believed in excessive freedom for market forces. What neither side saw was the social and

political impact of the kind of policy they were conducting towards textiles."

Similarly, Mr. Christian Pierret, the lone Socialist MP in the region, argues for a determined government-backed effort to put the industry back on its feet. "We oppose the idea that industry can be pushed into specialised niches and traditional sectors left to die," he says. "Strong companies depend on a diversified industrial

base: you cannot develop a robotics industry without machine tools, and you will not create a fashion industry without textiles."

Late last year the government began to change course. The first sign came when President Giscard, demonstrating a masterful ability to make a U-turn look like the straight at Le Mans, calmly assured the nation that "textiles innovation" had become a strategic industry. Thus, like microelectronics or off-shore engineering, it becomes eligible for special aids under a scheme des-

igned to propel French industry into the technology expected to dominate the 21st century.

Since then, the government has stepped up its intervention, taking up the issue of cheap imports and moving to stop Eastern European or Third World garments being re-labelled elsewhere in the European Community and enter France at prices the domestic companies cannot match.

President Giscard's *volte-face* is the action of a seasoned politician, smelling electoral danger. It comes too late to save several companies, and will not solve many underlying unemployment problems.

But the measures do answer the critics on a number of points. Some five per cent of clothes in France are believed to come in under false labels; curbing such imports should give the industry a breathing space. Similarly, the investment aids will undoubtedly help some larger, more forward-looking companies.

Some textile industrialists, convinced they will continue to be sacrificed — if rather more slowly in the future — to the twin gods of free enterprise and high technology, want more full-blooded protection. "We have to be protected against countries where working methods are less well-policed than here," says Mr. Georges Favre, head of the Epinal textile manufacturers' association.

"In most of its traditional manufacturing, Europe is not competitive. That goes for coal, steel and agriculture, and all of those are protected. Why not textiles?"

The main vote is still likely to go to the right, but reinforcing the Gaullists in the first round as a protest against President Giscard's policies.

In the second round the right will rally to the president, giving him just a majority. This, at least, is the belief of one of the most authoritative people in Epinal: Mr. Seguin, the Gaullist MP.

(Financial Times news features)

OPENING of Flowers, Fish and Birds Land

We are glad to announce to the public the opening of Flowers, Fish and Birds Land at the Interior Ministry Circle (on the second floor, above the MEDCO automatic car wash) on Thursday, April 23.

Visitors can see a wide variety of flowers, domestic plants, flower pots and vases, electrical fountains for indoor use, ceramic and wax vases and ornaments, furniture for gardens and verandas, pet fish and aquariums, various birds, pigeons, peacocks and gazelles.

Circle of Interior Ministry, Jabal Al-Husseini P.O. Box 2447

Handwritten signature or note in Arabic script.